

White Supremacy Culture

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th

Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

As we work to dismantle racism in our institution, it's important to be able to identify the characteristics of white supremacy culture.

- Defensiveness
- Perfectionism
- Sense of Urgency
- Quantity Over Quality
- Worship of the Written Word
- Paternalism
- Either/Or Thinking
- Power Hoarding
- Individualism
- Progress is Bigger, More
- Objectivity
- Right to Comfort
- Fear of Conflict
- Belief in One Right Way

In the coming weeks the 8th Principle Minute will focus on many of these items, but, perhaps, we need to start with Defensiveness, because this stands in the way of even accepting this list.

We have put a lot of effort into building our institutions in a way that supports the 7 principles and, as a result of that effort, we have a strong sense of ownership. A critical examination might be viewed as threatening and it's natural to be defensive about our past good works.

We need to set aside the binary thinking that says we can't have done well in the past and yet still have room for improvement. We must start by consciously assuming we have things to learn, that there is always an opportunity for growth. As we are asked to evaluate our communities let us

start with the assumption that they are flawed and then we can be pleasantly surprised by the actual current state. We can then know that while we still might have a long way to go, we have already come far and are not starting from scratch.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.

<https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/characteristics.html>
https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/museums/files/White_Supremacy_Culture.pdf